

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ROME 07355 212233Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 /045 W

-----003540 222056Z /66 L

R 201652Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2252

INFO USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

USNMR SHAPE BE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG

USLOSACLAUT NORFOLK VA

S E C R E T ROME 7355

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: NATO IT UR

SUBJECT: ITALIAN CONCERN ABOUT SOVIET REQUEST FOR SHIP REPAIR

FACILITIES IN NAPLES

SECRET

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PAGE 02 ROME 07355 212233Z

REF: STATE 101026 DTG 200131Z APR 78; ROME 7167 (NOTAL)

1. DCM MET WITH MFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS BOTTAI  
AT LATTER'S REQUEST ON EVENING APRIL 17 TO DISCUSS HOW SUBJECT OF  
SOVIET VESSEL ACCESS TO REPAIR FACILITIES IN ITALIAN  
PORTS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN NATO. BOTTAI WENT OVER

ITALIAN POSITION IN LOW KEY: THE ITALIANS DON'T WANT THE SUBJECT RAISED IN A FORMAL COUNCIL MEETING AS PART OF A FORMAL AGENDA; HOWEVER, THEY RECOGNIZE ITS IMPORTANCE, ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS IT, AND DO NOT SEEM ADVERSE TO TAKING THE LEAD; CATALANO HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION WITH AMBASSADOR BENNETT. DCM USED OPPORTUNITY TO GO OVER U.S. ATTITUDE AS DESCRIBED IN EARLIER TRAFFIC (STATE 101026 HAD NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED) AND MENTIONED TO BOTTAI HIGH (AND GROWING) LEVEL OF U.S. SIXTH FLEET REPAIR EXPENDITURES IN ITALIAN PORTS, PARTICULARLY IN NAPLES.

2. ROME'S 7167 (NOTAL) REFERRED TO DISCUSSION APRIL 17 BETWEEN AMBASSADOR AND PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI IN WHICH THE PM RAISED MATTER OF SOVIET PRESSURES (IN AN ENVIRONMENT OF HEAVY UNEMPLOYMENT) FOR SHIP REPAIR FACILITIES IN NAPLES. THE PM WELCOMED DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUE IN NATO. IN ORDER TO FEND OFF DOMESTIC PRESSURES HE EXPRESSED PARTICULAR INTEREST IN RECEIVING INFORMATION ON THE VOLUME OF U.S. SHIP REPAIR ACTIVITY IN NAPLES YARDS IN RECENT YEARS. WE ARE PUTTING TOGETHER THAT AND OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION FOR HIM. WE WILL PROVIDE THE SAME INFORMATION TO NATO FOR BACKGROUND AND POSSIBLE USE WITH THE ITALIAN DELEGATION. GARDNER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SPARE PARTS, PORT FACILITIES, ACCESS TO PORTS, NAVAL SHIPS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014